<u>REMARKS</u>

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The above preliminary amendment is made amend claim 1, cancel claims 2-22 and add claims 23-29.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 19, 2004

Douglas P. Mueller Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/pjk